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JEAN TROUVE

BY NEVIL HENSHAW Author of Aline of the Grand Woods, etc.

CHAPTER IX.-CONTINUED.

Upon the visit to the uncle I touched lightly, only telling my listeners enough to allow them to understand that I had been driven away. Then came Monsieur Dugas' cruelty, his blow, and his promise of detention.

It was at this point that the big man gripped his tiller so fiercely that I wondered that the solid oak did not crack beneath the strength of his hands.

"Dieu," he swore, raising a huge fist-the size of a small ham. "How I should like to have been there.'

The little man said nothing, but he reached out one of his long arms and stroked my swollen face with a touch as tender as that of a woman. Perhaps it needed only this gentleness to release my pent-up feelings, for I finished my story in a burst of tears, telling of my escape and the trials of the marsh between my sobs.

When I had finished I drew forth the gold piece and held it out upon my trembling palm, but Le Bossu waved it indignantly away.

"Come, come, mon p'tit," he reproved me. "Have I not told you that we are friends? You must clothing. To one born and bred upon the coast it would have been a trifle, but for me, the soft flabby not think that we are all blood-suckers here like your M'sieu Dugas. And now, of course, you wish to return to this Madame product of the rue Bourbon, promised to be a most serious affair. Therese ?

"Yes, yes, M'sieu—I mean Le Bossu," I cried esgerly. "And you will take me to the town? You will put me upon the train?"

The little man nodded. 'Most certainly," he answered. "But such a thing can not be done

at once. At present you are on your way to the camp at Bayou Portage in the Toinette, the property of your friend there, Papa Ton. It is not often that the marsh-folk come up as far as the bridge, and it is probable that no boat will make the journey for several days. Therefore you will be forced to stay with us until you can leave which, promise you, will be at the first opportunity.

My spirits fell at the prospect of this unexpected delay.

"But—but could you not turn back?" I feebly protested. At this the big man laughed, though not unkindly. "That is a good one, in this wind," he observed. "By the time

we had poled to the bridge you would have grown so old that your Madame Therese would not know you. Also we are now near the camp, and I would not disappoint my own little one for all the journeys in the world. No, my friend, you will have to wait until some boat puts out again.

'And that may be soon," soothed Le Bossu. "Come, take heart, mon p'tit. We are rough folk, but our hearts are kind, and I have for "Come, take heart, you the finest playmate in all the world. You will make a pair, I am sure. Toinette and-' He broke off to stare at me with a

puzzled frown. "Here is a joke on me, Papa my interest I have forgotten to ask the little one's name." "It is John," said I in reply to his

bar.

weary, deserted boy, stretching out small hand upon my burning brow, weary, deserted boy, stretching out his hands to a lasting friendship. The brief twilight had faded into darkness, and the long lines of marsh lay low and black against the "Poor, poor, little Jean," I heard marsh lay low and black against the

it cry as from a great distance before the black cloud whirled me cold gray sheen of the bayou. High overhead a single heron ranged the shadowy sky, and from the banks away into the darker realms of upon either side came the shrill piping concert of the night. The unconsciousness. Thus I came to the camp at Bayou freshening breeze, and at the bow I I wandered through a vague, monstrous land of nightmares, in which could hear the soft slap of innumer-I was ever pursued by some relentable tiny waves. Suddenly a bend of the baycu

CHAPTER X.

THE CAMP

march of countless, tiny invaders.

less enemy. Most often it was Monsieur Dugas with his crafty face, his threw a dark arm athwart the lug-ger's course, and, looking beyond it, I saw very faint and distant, a scat-tered twinkle of lights. Papa Ton gave a grunt of satisfaction. Le Bossu sprang to his feet. "Bayou Portage, my little Jean," Bossu sprang to his feet. "Bayou Portage, my little Jean," he announced cheerily. "Also we he announced cheerily. "Also we with their long, talon-like fingers. have not arrived any too soon. The Once even it was Proteus himself, a

worn draggled Proteus who snatched marsh is no place for such a city one as yourself. Unless I am mis-taken, you are going to be ill." me from the embrace of Madame Therese with one royal arm, while with the other he pointed toward the cavern-like tombs of the old St. Louis cemetery. Yet, at the last crucial moment, I

That the keen brown eyes of Le Bossu had made no mistake was was always rescued. Trembling, cowering with palsied limbs, I would await my doom, only to be drawn back into final safety. proved even before the lugger had traversed the short remainder of er journey. As the little man had And, curiously enough, it was said, the marsh was no place for

always by the same hand-the same such a city one as myself and, folsmall, deliciously cool hand that I lowing my arduous journey through it, had come the long sleep in the had felt, but never seen. TO BE CONTINUED open air in my soaked and muddy



Already I was ill, too ill almost to appreciate my condition. The swim-By Emily S. Windsor in Rosary Magazine Lawyer Burton pushed aside the ing in my head had now increased book he had been poring over, and leaned back in his chair. He felt a until I felt that it must whirl out the last dizzy fragment of my con-sciousness. The pain in my neck and shoulders had subsided into a sudden distaste for searching dry records. The air of the office seemed stuffy. He got up and striding over to a window, threw it dull heavy ache, like the pressure of some intolerable weight. Each up. A rush of fragrant air came nerve and muscle flinched in agony

at my slightest movement, and in As he glanced out, a wagon, my veins there was a creepy, ting-ling sensation as from the slow laden with green house plants and bunches of lilac was passing slowly by

At Le Bossu's announcement I Lilac! He had always loved it sought to rise to my feet, but the torture of the effort was so great Whiffs of its delightful scent floated up to him from the wagon. His that I sank back upon the nets with a cry of pain. Instantly the little thoughts went back to his boyhood home, the dear old country home. man had dropped to his knees beside There had been great lilac bushes me, while Papa Ton leaned forward outside the windows of his mother's from his tiller with a gruff word of sitting room. He could see her sitting by one of them with her "So," said Le Bossu, after he had sewing, her favorite place in lilac

passed an inquiring hand across my hot face. "It is as I feared. Those time. An intense longing for the old little fever creatures, they lose no time when they have fresh material home came over him, a longing never to be fulfilled, for after the passing to work upon. Now with us, Papa away of his mother, it had been sold. Its new owners had built a Ton, they may gnaw away to their heart's content, as they do each hour, only to be conquered by our good rich blood. No, my friend, there is nothing you can do save to more modern house, and her lilac bushes were no longer there. He could never again see the old place as he remembered it, and in its new stick to your tiller, and so keep us aspect, he could not bear to see it. from spending the night upon some He was so absorbed in thought The sooner this little one is in that he did not hear Thompson, his bed, the better it will be for him. clerk, come in from the outer office

While speaking, Le Bossu had until he was standing beside him produced a large bandana handker-chief which he dipped overside. and saying : "Here are the papers in that Brown case, sir. Now, coming back to me, he took "Oh, yes-yes. Th put them on my desk." Thompson-just me in his arms, and bathed my

burning face with the cool brackish Thompson's face wore an expreswater, at the same time crooning a sion of surprise as he left the room. quaint Cajun lullaby. Gradually a slow pleasant feeling of drowsiness those papers, and now they seemed

those papers, and now they seemed orept over me, but my eyes did not close. Instead they remained wide open, gazing dreamily out past the vague bulk at the tiller, and thus, wanted green fields, and trees in wanted green fields, and trees in would be lilac growing some place. He hurriedly cleared his desk, unceremoniously shoving the Brown papers into a drawer in a fashion which would have scandalized Thompson had he seen it. Then grasping his hat from the peg on the door, he sailed forth. Thompson looked after him in wonder. The lawyer was not in the habit of leaving his office before lunch. At the corner of the street the wagon of flowers had stopped, and people were buying them. There she decided. was but one bunch of lilac left, a big bunch of mingled white and lavender blooms. The lawyer bought it, and hastily returned to the office, where he greatly astonished Thompson. He laid the lilacs on the clerk's desk, saying "Take them home to your wife, Thompson, with my compliments." Thompson managed to murmur his thanks. Lawyer Burton had left the

Dalton affair go. But now he stood in silence wondering what the would foreclose. It had gone long strange man wanted with their

THE CATHOLIC RECORD

enough. the station he found that he would have to wait twenty minutes with their load of lavender plumes for the next train to Milford. He was strolling about when he felt a hand on his arm. He turned around to look into the face of Father More, formerly

"Now I need not come to your lilac. office as I intended doing."

'You wouldn't have found me today, Father. I'm off to the country for the day "Well, I can tell you now what I

was coming for. I want a donation for my mission. I want a good one, said the priest bluntly. Lawyer Burton frowned. "You know my opinion of that mission. I am not in sympathy with it. don't think it was a good place to establish it.

"Wherever the people are ignor-ant and without God and His Holy Church is the place for a Mission The lawyer made no reply to that. More went Father "The Mission is prospering, but we need an extra room for our school. I am trying to raise the money for it. You will not refuse to help me?" Lawyer Burton looked thoughtfully at the worn face of the old "I still am not in sympathy priest. with it. You are wearing yourself out, Father, for that worthless set first.

of people. Here, I'll tell you what I'll do. I am going to sell a piece of property soon. If I sell it to good advantage, I'll send you a check The priest smiled sadly. "Then I

hope it will be very soon. bless you." He clasped the lawyer's hand warmly and walked away. A few minutes later the train for Milford was called.

The Dalton children, Grace aged twelve. David ten, and Alice eight, had been left to keep house while

'Oh, we'll take the best care ever

of everything," they had assured her, as she kissed them good bye. "I'll tell you what let's do," said Grace; "let's bring our lunch out on the porch when it's time to eat it, and pretend we're having a party. "It would be nice if we could take

woods.

it over to the woods, and have a picnic," said David, "only grandmother told us we must stay around

the house. Grace clapped her hands. "I've glance around, he added, "The an idea. Let's fix the porch up with evergreens and it will seem a

little like the woods. One of us said Grace sadly. can go over to the woods and get cedar boughs. That will not be leaving the house alone."

"I'll go over and get some," agreed David. "There's a lot of cedar just as you go into the house. And grandmother hasn't Oh, and let's bring out some big land out West and if she can sell

pitchers and fill them with lilac. that she will be able to. But it They'll look beautiful beside the cedar, and be so sweet smelling," the man won't want to wait. She suggested Alice.

"I'll get some lilac from that bush over by the fence. I like to see this one by the porch with all "Well, don't you its flowers on it. I guess you better it," said Lawyer Burton. go with David to help carry home be sure to wait. the cedar," said Grace.

It took several trips to the wood before they had enough evergreen

ARCHITECTS Randolph 7887 grandmother. He glanced around the garden, and the lilac bushes J. M. COWAN renewed his sensations of the morn Architect ing, when he had seen from his office window the wagon load of (Regist Churches, Schools

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flowers and the fragrance of the lilac had floated up to him. "You have a nice garden," he remarked. "And what a lot of

"I am sorry my grandmother is not at home," said Grace. "Won't you come in and rest?" she added politely, remembering what she had been taught in regard to hospital-

ity. The lawyer felt that it would be awhile. "I pleasant to sit down awhile. "I think I shall, thank you," he answered, and followed Grace to the porch and took the chair which she had placed for him.

As he glanced around at the bower of cedar and lilacs, and the table with its plates of sandwiches and conkies, he said, "I fear I am interfering with some festivity, and stood up to go away.

"Oh, no, please sit down again. exclaimed Grace, and little Alice, looking up at him and saw an expression in his eyes that made her suddenly decide that he was no cross looking as she had thought at

She said, "We're going to eat our lunch out here, and pretend it's a party.

The smile in the little girl's blue eyes brought an answering one to his lips. "Well, now, that's a fine eyes b. his lips. 'he said.

"We'd like to have had a picnic in the woods," went on Alice, "but we promised grandmother not to leave the house.

David had taken the pail of milk into the house. He now returned with it in a pitcher. "Won't you have lunch with us?" invited Grace. She was pouring the

had been left to keep nouse while their grandmother went to the city on business. "You must not go away," she told them. "Play around home. I have left a nice lunch for you in the pantry." "I shall be delighted. We don't have milk like that in the city." And the lawyer, as he shared the simple meal, thought that nothing had ever tasted more delicious.

214 Dundas St. Thompson would certainly have been astonished had he seen his employer, whom he knew only as a keen lawyer, devoted to business, chatting and laughing with those children.

Presently Alice asked, "Don't 519 Richmond St. you think the porch looks beautiful all fixed up this way ?" "Indeed it does," was the hearty

reply. Then with a comprehensive whole place is beautiful.

"It will be dreadful if we lose it,' Why should you lose it ?" asked

the lawyer. "Grandfather lost a lot of money

been able to do it. She owns some went to town to see him about it

Oh, I do hope he'll be nice "Well, don't you worry about "He'll

"Oh, do you think so?" "I'm sure he will." The The lawyer

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look of inquiry. "Jean," repeated Le Bossu in his

own language. "Bien, that is good enough so far, as I who am also Jean, should know. And now for the rest of it, unless, as in the case of your uncle, it has also escaped

your memory." Once more I paused before replying, for in my hurried review of a while before I had not taken thought of my name. To give it fully would probably start a flood of questions in which my story of the uncle would be hopelessly swamped. No, the name of Marsh meant too much in that country to be risked at such a time.

And yet, at the moment, I could think of nothing else. My hot head swam dizzily. The pain in my neck and shoulders was fast becoming unbearable. And through my unbearable. And through my empty whirling thoughts the forbidden name flashed mockingly, as though written in letters of fire.

"Come," urged the little man. "Surely it is enough that I have found you, without also finding your name?"

With the words, in his queer French patois, an inspiration seized me. Perhaps in a calmer mood I would not have ventured it. But I had already waited too long, and in my vacant mind there now lingered naught save what the little man had said.

"Trouve," I gasped. "My name is Jean Trouve.

Le Bossu shot me a suspicious glance.

"At all events it is appropriate enough for the occasion," said he dryly. Then, placing an arm about me, he added in a kinder tone, me, he added in a kinder tone, "Very well, little Jean Perdu, who is now Jean Trouve. At least you have fallen among those who will look out for you. See, here is my

hand in token of friendship." "And here is mine also," growled Papa Ton, reaching down a huge hairy paw from the tiller. We must have made a strange

trio there in the stern of the lugger —the great childish giant, the small, keen-witted hunchback, the

vague bulk at the thirt, and that of my arrival at Bayou Portage, I still have some broken memories. I recall a huge, glistening expanse are and dat above ghich innumers of mud flat above which innumerable curls of mist puffed upward, as from the discharge of fairy ord-nance; a sudden widening of the bayou set with the pale reflections the first venturesome stars; an abrupt entrance into a black alley of marsh where Le Bossu, with a word of encouragement, laid me gently upon the pile of nets before

hurrying forward. Then the sail dropped smoothly

to the deck under the little man's skilful handling, and the lugger, with ever-decreasing speed, swung in toward a huddle of rough piling that rose spirit-like from the gloom. On top of the piling a dim line of

planks led back toward the shore, where a small elfish light danced an erratic welcome.

This much I saw as in a dream before the lugger bumped softly home. Then Le Bossu bent over me, and Papa Ton raised his voice

in a deep rumbling hail. "Hola !" he shouted. "You are there, Toinette ?"

The light danced down the line of planks, and a sweet childish voice called back in answer. "Yes, it is I, Papa Ton. And you?" There was an anxious pause. "You are all right?

The big man began some mumbling reply, but Le Bossu cut him short

"To that I can swear, my little "Nevertheless there is one with us who is not all right. A moment were always trained to yague. There

and you will see." He lifted me in his arms as he finished speaking and, despite his gentleness, the agony of the moment was so great, that my departure from the lugger was lost to me in a black whirling cloud of pain.

little man stepped upon it, the It was a desirable property. The harsh grate of broken shell as his feet reached the bank, the sudden inherited it from a cousin the year

room, but put his head in at the door to say, "I'll not be back today, the station. The children glanced curiously at

Thompson, and you can close up as soon as you like. Didn't you say your wife had not been well?" "Thank you, sir. But what are your instructions about that Delton matter?" Dalton matter ?

"I'll let you know Monday, Thompson." On deciding to go to the country

As they reached their home, and were opening the gate, the stranger said, "Is not this where Mrs. Dalton lives ?" "Yes, sir," answered David. were always trains going to some country town. But Thompson's mention of the Dalton affair de-

cided him. He would go and see what repairs ought to be made on "Ah, then, I think I shall come in

advantage after foreclosure. There would be no difficulty in selling it, I remember dimly the tortured shaking of the flimsy wharf as the Milford, a flourishing little village.

inherited it from a cousin the year he was in Europe on legal business.

"Bless me, how the time has gone to make the porch look "woodsy," "Bless me, how the time has gone as Grace expressed it. Then, when I'll have to hurry to catch that half they had made it a bower of frag-rant green wich great bunches of lilacs intermingled, it did look beautiful. They spent several minutes admiring it. grandmother. Good bye." He gravely shook hands with the three "Say, I'm hungry," exclaimed David. "Let's have our lunch. I hope grandmother left something good." children, and walked away. As they watched his tall form disappear, Mary said, "I wonder who he is, and why he came to see grandmother. I didn't like to ask "I'll go and see," said Grace. She came back in a few minutes to him. say that there nice ham sandwiches and ginger cookies. I'll bring that little table in the hall out here and "Why, of course not," said avid. "It wouldn't have been David. polite." put a white cover on it to eat off. "He's nice, I like him," declared Alice. "And I'm glad it's Satur-day and we were not at school when "Oh, we didn't go for the milk yet," Alice reminded her. "We'll have to have it to drink, he came.

Lawyer Burton's attendance at Mass had been irregular for some said David. "Let's go for it while Grace is fixing the table." Their daily supply of milk was obtained at a farm house a short distance down the road. The two time, but he went the next morning.

The amount of the check which Father More received the following week surprised him, "He must children were coming from David carrying the pail of milk, and Alice skipping gayly along beside him, when a tall man came out of the branch road which led to week surprised him. He must have received a large sum for his property," he thought. "Well, its fine of him to be so generous when he doesn't approve of the Mission. God bless him."

him. They were familiar with the people of the village and neighbor-hood. They had never seen him before. He walked along almost If you understand the value of a cheerful spirit of resignation to all that God sends, you would pray for abreast of them in leisurely fashion, it more earnestly ; I mean the spirit glancing observantly around the landscape. Alice stopped her that when anything painful happens instantly say: "I have deserved far worse—Deo Gratias;" that acknowledges it is God's creature, and that He has a right to treat it ingt as He likes just as He likes.

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and see her. "My grandmother isn't at home," returned the little boy. Here Grace came down from the porch. The stranger turned to her. "When will Mrs. Dalton be at home?"

Not before evening. She went

red flare of fire as from a hastily opened door. Then came the rough yet soothing touch of blankets, the cool delicious pressure of a

skipping and walked demurely.